and New Delhi Municipal Corporation to ensure that the buildings that are erected in Delhi provide for requisite safety features in respect of natural hazards like earthquake in accordance with the specifications/ guidelines laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standard for construction of earthquake resistant houses and strengthening/repair of the exiting houses. Recently, Model Town and Country Planning Legislation, Zoning Regulation Development Control and Building Regulation/Bye-laws for Safety against earthquakes have been prepared by an Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the nodal Ministry for Disaster Management in the country. The report submitted by the said Committee has already been circulated to the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations with the advice to adopt them to meet the requirements of the States. Microzonation of urban areas may lead to further refinement of building Bye-laws.

PPF for unorganised sector

*338 SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Provident Fund (PPF) covers less than one in every thousand workers in the unorganised sector;

(b) whether it is further a fact that PPF has not been very successful in attracting low income earners;

(c) whether it is also a fact that over half of PPF customers are in the taxable income bracket;

(d) what are the objectives of constituting PPF and whether the objectives have been achieved; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the same and to make PPF a successful scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (e) The objective of constituting the

Public Provident Fund (PPF) Scheme is to establish a provident fund for the general public. Fulfilment of the objective of the schemes is an ongoing process.

The gross annual collections under the Scheme have increased from Rs.10747 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 16484 crore in 2004-05 (Provisional). The balances under the Scheme amount to Rs. 83461 crore as on 31.03.2005 (Provisional). The information of account holders, income-wise and sector-wise is however, not maintained. Government has constantly been reviewing the scheme to make it investor friendly.

Expenditure on project under social sector

†*339. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to increase the expenditure on projects under social sector in the country;

(b) if so, total amount spent on these projects during the current year and the extent to which this amount exceeds the amount spent during the last year; and

(c) the amount likely to be increased for this purpose during the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Social Sector is given priority while finalizing the Plan outlays for the Central Ministries as well as Central Assistance to State Governments. The Plan outlays of the Ministries/ Departments implementing Social Sector Schemes/Projects as well as the Central Assistance for Social Sector Projects given to the State Governments for the Annual Plan 2004-05 (Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates) and the Budget Estimates for the current year, *i.e.* 2005-06) are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). An assessment of the likely amount to be allocated for the Social Sector during the year 2006-07 is not available.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.